

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for accessing a database, comprising the steps of:
receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol;
5 converting the first request to a second request, the second request in a second format compatible with a repository protocol;
transmitting the second request to a repository;
receiving from the repository a first response in the second format, the first response including control information and requested information;
10 converting the first response to a second response, the second response in the first format and the second response including the control information and the requested information; and
transmitting the second response to a client to be provided by the client in a manner determined by at least the control information.
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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the client comprises a telephone.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).
- 25 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first request further comprises authentication information, and wherein receiving a first request comprises:
receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol; and
determining a level of authorization based on the authentication information.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the client comprises a telephone, the requested information includes a telephone number, and the control information includes an autodial indicator, and wherein transmitting the second response to a client comprises transmitting the second response to the telephone to be used to
5 display the telephone number and to determine an autodial status of the telephone number.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the requested information includes a telephone number, and wherein the control information is used by the client to
10 determine which digits of the telephone number to display.

8. A method for accessing a database, comprising the steps of:
receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network
communication protocol, the request including save information;
converting the first request to a second request, the second request in a second
5 format compatible with a repository protocol;
transmitting the second request to a repository to store the save information;
receiving from the repository a response in the second format;
transmitting an update notification to a client indicating the save information
has been updated, in response to receiving the response from the repository.

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9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the client comprises a telephone.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the public network communication
protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

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11. The method of Claim 8, wherein the repository protocol comprises one
of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory
Access Protocol (LDAP).

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12. The method of Claim 8, wherein the save information comprises
information identifying a user and a password associated with the user.

13. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
receiving an update request from the client in response to the update
25 notification; and
transmitting the save information to the client.

14. A system for storing information comprising:
a client operable to communicate using a public network communication
protocol;
a repository operable to store information and operable to communicate using
5 a repository protocol; and
an interface coupled to the repository and operable to communicate using the
public network communication protocol, wherein the interface is further operable to:
receive a request in a first format from the client;
convert the request to a second format;
10 transmit the request to the repository;
receive from the repository a response in the second format, the
response including control information and requested information;
convert the response to the first format; and
transmit the response to the client;
15 wherein the client is operable to provide the requested information to a user in
a manner determined by at least the control information.
15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the client includes a telephone.
- 20 16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the public network communication
protocol is the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the repository protocol is one of the
Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory Access
25 Protocol (LDAP).

18. The system of Claim 14, wherein the request includes authentication information, and wherein the interface is further operable to receive a request by:
receiving a request in a first format from the client; and
evaluating the authentication information to determine an authorization status.

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19. The system of Claim 14, wherein the client comprises a telephone, the requested information includes a telephone number, and the control information includes an autodial indicator, and wherein the telephone is operable to:

present an autodial option to a user based on the autodial indicator; and
10 dial the telephone number for the user in response to the user selecting the autodial option.

20. The system of Claim 14, wherein the requested information includes a telephone number, and wherein the control information is used by the client to
15 determine which digits of the telephone number to display.

21. A system for storing information comprising:

a first client operable to communicate using a public network communication protocol;

5 a second client operable to communicate using the public network communication protocol;

a repository operable to store information and operable to communicate using a repository protocol; and

an interface coupled to the repository and operable to communicate using the public network communication protocol, wherein the interface is further operable to:

10 receive a request in a first format from the first client, the request

including save information;

convert the request to a second format;

transmit the request to the repository to store the save information;

receive from the repository a response in the second format;

15 transmit an update notification to the second client indicating that the save information has been updated.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the first client and the second client comprise telephones.

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23. The system of Claim 21, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

24. The system of Claim 21, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

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25. The system of Claim 21, wherein the save information comprises information identifying a user and a password associated with the user.

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26. The system of Claim 21, wherein the interface is further operable to:
receive an update request from the second client in response to the update
notification; and

- 5 transmit the save information to the second client in response to the update
request.

27. An apparatus for accessing a database comprising:

a first interface operable to receive a request for information communicated according to a public communication protocol;

5 a translation module coupled to the first interface and operable to translate the request from the public network communication protocol to a repository protocol;

a second interface coupled to the translation module and operable to couple to a repository and to communicate the request to the repository according to the repository protocol, the second interface further operable receive a response communicated according to the repository protocol, the response including control
10 information and request information;

the translation module further operable to translate the response from the repository protocol to the public network communication protocol; and

the first interface further operable to couple to a client and to communicate the response to the client according to the public communication protocol, wherein the
15 client provides the request information in a manner determined by at least the control information.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the first interface is further operable to communicate the response by communicating the response according to
20 the public network communication protocol to a telephone to be provided by the telephone in a manner determined by at least the control information.

29. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
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30. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

30 31. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the requested information includes a telephone number, and wherein the control information is used by the client to determine which digits of the telephone number to display.

32. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the request further comprises authentication information, and wherein the second interface is further operable to communicate a request by:

determining a level of authorization based on the authentication information;

5 and

communicating a request based on the authentication information.

33. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the client comprises a telephone, the requested information includes a telephone number, and the control information
10 includes an autodial indicator, and wherein the first interface is further operable to communicate the response by communicating the response according to the public network communication protocol to the telephone to be used to determine an autodial status of the telephone number.

15 34. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the first interface, the second interface, and the translation module are integrated into a single physical component.

35. An apparatus for accessing a database comprising:

a first interface operable to receive a request communicated according to a public communication protocol, wherein the request comprises save information;

5 a translation module coupled to the first interface and operable to translate the request from the public network communication protocol to a repository protocol;

a second interface coupled to the translation module and operable to couple to a repository and to communicate the request to the repository according to the repository protocol, the second interface further operable receive an update notification communicated according to the repository protocol, the update
10 notification indicating that the save information has been updated;

the translation module further operable to translate the update notification from the repository protocol to the public network communication protocol; and

the first interface further operable to couple to a client and to communicate the update notification to the client according to the public communication protocol.

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36. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the first interface is further operable to communicate the update notification by communicating the update notification to a telephone.

20 37. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

38. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory
25 Access Protocol (LDAP).

39. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the save information comprises information identifying a user and a password associated with the user.

40. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the first interface is further operable to:

receive an update request from the client in response to the update notification;

and

5 transmit the save information to the client.

41. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the first interface and the second interface are integrated into a single physical component.

42. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program operable to:

receive a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol;

5 convert the first request to a second request, the second request in a second format compatible with a repository protocol;

transmit the second request to a repository;

receive from the repository a first response in the second format, the first response including control information and requested information;

10 convert the first response to a second response, the second response in the first format and the second response including the control information and the requested information; and

transmit the second response to a client to be provided by the client in a manner determined by at least the control information.

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43. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the computer program is further operable to communicate the second response to a client by communicating the second response to a telephone.

20 44. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

45. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight
25 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

46. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the first request further comprises authentication information, and wherein the computer program is further operable to receive a first request by:

30 receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol; and

determining a level of authorization based on the authentication information.

47. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the requested information includes a telephone number, and the control information includes an autodial indicator, and wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit the second response to a telephone by transmitting the second response to the telephone
5 to be used to determine an autodial status of the telephone number.

48. The computer program of Claim 42, wherein the requested information includes a telephone number, and wherein the control information is used by the client to determine which digits of the telephone number to display.

49. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program operable to:

receive a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol, the request including save information;

5 convert the first request to a second request, the second request in a second format compatible with a repository protocol;

transmit the second request to a repository to store the save information;

receive from the repository a response in the second format;

10 transmit an update notification to a client indicating the save information has been updated, in response to receiving the response from the repository.

50. The computer program of Claim 49, wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit an update notification by transmitting an update notification to a telephone.

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51. The computer program of Claim 49, wherein the public network communication protocol comprises the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

20 52. The computer program of Claim 49, wherein the repository protocol comprises one of the Structured Query Language (SQL) protocol and the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

53. The computer program of Claim 49, wherein the save information comprises information identifying a user and a password associated with the user.

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54. The computer program of Claim 49, wherein the computer program is further operable to:

receive an update request from the client in response to the update notification;

and

30 transmit the save information to the client.

55. A system for accessing a database comprising:

means for receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol;

5 means for converting the first request to a second request, the second request in a second format compatible with a repository protocol;

means for transmitting the second request to a repository;

means for receiving from the repository a first response in the second format, the first response including control information and requested information;

10 means for converting the first response to a second response, the second response in the first format and the second response including the control information and the requested information; and

means for transmitting the second response to a client to be provided by the client in a manner determined by at least the control information.

56. A system for accessing a database comprising:
- means for receiving a first request in a first format compatible with a public network communication protocol, the request including save information;
 - means for converting the first request to a second request, the second request
 - 5 in a second format compatible with a repository protocol;
 - means for transmitting the second request to a repository to store the save information;
 - means for receiving from the repository a response in the second format;
 - means for transmitting an update notification to a client indicating the save
 - 10 information has been updated, in response to receiving the response from the repository.